

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (new): A public transportation vehicle for transporting passengers comprising:

an interior of a public transportation vehicle for accommodating passengers to be transported; and

blast-resistant protection means arranged in the interior of the vehicle for confining an explosive blast and protecting at least some of the passengers, said blast-resistant protection means comprising:

an array of partition means arranged in the interior of the vehicle to subdivide the interior into a plurality of interconnected subspaces for substantially confining an explosive blast to at least one subspace for protecting the passengers situated in the remaining subspaces, the array of partition means comprising at least six spaced-apart blast-resistant panels positioned within the interior of the vehicle for separating groupings of passengers from each other.

Claim 9 (new): A vehicle according to claim 8, wherein the panels are provided with apertures to attenuate blast pressure in the subspace wherein the blast occurs while air pressure rise in the remaining subspaces is within a limit avoiding injury of persons located therein.

Claim 10 (new): A vehicle according to claim 9, wherein at least a part of the panels is made of transparent polycarbonate.

Claim 11 (new): A vehicle according to claim 9 or 10, wherein at least a part of the panels is made of aramide fibers.

Claim 12 (new): A vehicle according to claim 8, wherein the public transportation vehicle is a bus.

Claim 13 (new): A method for confining an explosive blast of a public transportation vehicle comprising:

- a) providing a public transportation vehicle having an interior space for accommodating passengers;
- b) locating at least six blast-resistant panels in the interior of the vehicle in a spaced-apart manner so as to subdivide the interior into a plurality of interconnected subspaces for substantially confining an explosive blast to at least one subspace for protecting passengers situated in the remaining subspaces; and
- c) anchoring the panels to an adjacent structure in the interior of the vehicle.